

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 NEA-09 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCSE-00

SCA-01 /107 W

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O R 092335Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9834

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 1147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EAD, PFOR, VN, VS, CB, AS, DA, GE, UNICEF, UNHCR

SUBJECT: UN OPI PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 9 ON RELIEF TO VIET NAM
AND CAMBODIA

REF: USUN 1131 (NOTAL)

1. UN OPI SPOKESMAN POWELL SPOKE TO PRESS ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES APRIL 9 REGARDING AID TO VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA:

(A) TO PRG - UNICEF HAS ASSEMBLED IN COPENHAGEN FOR SHIPMENT,
PROBABLY APRIL 10 OR 11, 10 TONS OF MEDICINE TO BE FLOWN BY
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COMMERCIAL CHARTER TO HANOI VIA VIENTIANE. THIRTY TONS OF MILK

POWDER FOR PRG AREAS WILL ARRIVE BY FREIGHTER FROM SINGAPORE IN HAIPHONG APRIL 9 OR 10 AND BE TRUCKED TO NEEDY AREAS.

(B) TO SOUTH VIET NAM - UNICEF - 65 TONS OF TARPAULIN FOR TENTS NOW ENROUTE BY AIR FROM JAPAN TO SAIGON; ADDITIONAL 100 TONS OF TARPAULIN ALSO PURCHASED IN JAPAN TO BE AIRLIFTED SAIGON BY END OF WEEK. THIRTY-ONE TONS MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARRIVING BY AIR IN SINGAPORE APRIL 10 TO BE FLOWN TO SAIGON BY AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT.

(C) UNICEF INCREASING STOCKPILES IN SINGAPORE, AND AIRLIFTING 350 TONS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FROM COPENHAGEN VALUED AT \$900,000. UNICEF ALSO AIRLIFTING TO SINGAPORE 500 TONS TARPAULIN, CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, AND MOSQUITO NETTING.

(D) TO CAMBODIA - IN LAST DAY OR TWO, UNICEF HAS SHIPPED 56.8 TONS MILK POWDER TO PHNOM PENH. ANOTHER 100 TONS MILK POWDER WILL BE FLOWN PHNOM PENH BY END OF WEEK.

(E) POWELL WILL TRY TO FIND OUT HOW MANY PEOPLE VARIOUS SHIPMENTS CAN CARE FOR. ASKED WHO UNICEF THINKS CONTROLS AREAS OUTSIDE PHNOM PENH, POWELL REPLIED THAT THIS DOESN'T CONCERN UNICEF. HE ALSO SAID HE KNOWS OF NO UN REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE WHILE RELIEF SHIPMENTS GO ON. HE SAID AGAIN, AS HE HAS OFTEN THIS WEEK, THAT UNICEF IS SUPPLYING ALL AREAS DEPENDING ON REQUEST AND DOVETAILING THIS WITH UNHCR REQUESTS.

(F) UNHCR RELIEF EFFORTS - POWELL ALSO GAVE THIS BREAKDOWN: A SCANDINAVIAN PLANE LEFT COPENHAGEN APRIL 6 AND ARRIVED IN SAIGON APRIL 7 WITH 17 TONS OF MEDICINES, AND MILK POWDER AS WELL AS CANNED MEAT. TWO ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS WENT FROM COPENHAGEN TO SAIGON CHARTERED FROM INTER-FLUG OF GDR. THESE PLANES LEFT COPENHAGEN APRIL 4 FOR HANOI EACH WITH 10 TONS OF CANNED MEAT, 2 TONS OF MEDICINE, AND 5 TONS OF SKIMMED MILK POWDER FOR PRG AREAS. ANOTHER PLANE LEAVES COPENHAGEN SHORTLY WITH 5 TONS OF ANTI-BIOTICS, 5 TONS OF VITAMINS, 3-1/2 TONS MEAT EXTRACT (BOULLION CUBES), AND 16-1/2 TONS OF CANNED MEAT ALSO FOR PRG CONTROLLED AREAS.

(G) UNHCR HAS \$1.3 MILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUSTRALIA.
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IT HAS USED \$800 THOUSAND OF THIS TO BUY 100 TONS MILK POWDER; 300 TONS CANNED MEAT, 40 TONS ANTI-BIOTICS AND VITAMINS. ONE-HALF OF THESE SUPPLIES GOES TO SOUTH VIET NAM AND ONE-HALF TO PRG AREAS. AUSTRALIAN GOVT IS ARRANGING MOST EFFICIENT MEANS TO TRANSPORT THESE. AUSTRALIA HAS GIVEN UNHCR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$1.35 MILLION FOR TRANSPORT COSTS OF COMMODITIES TO REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AND PRG. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE LAUNCHED \$5 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR UNHCR.

NEARLY ALL SUPPLIES FOR PRG GOING THROUGH HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

(H) UNHCR MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH PRG IN GENEVA REGARDING RELIEF TO PRG AREAS. DISCUSSION HAS INCLUDED POSSIBLE USE OF AIRLIFTS INTO DANANG AND HUE FOR RELIEF FLIGHTS. PRG HAS GIVEN UNHCR LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO MAKE AIRPORTS OPERATIONAL BUT HAS NOT MADE WRITTEN REQUEST FOR MATERIALS.

(I) POWELL STRESSED THAT MANY INNOCENT CIVILIANS ARE SUFFERING ON BOTH SIDES. UNHCR AND UNICEF BOTH HAVE PEOPLE IN SAIGON AND HANOI AND ARE CONSTANTLY REASSESSING NEEDS AND SUPPLYING AS POSSIBLE.

(J) POWELL REAFFIRMED THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTE COORDINATION BETWEEN UN SYSTEM AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. SIR ROBERT JACKSON IS IN CHARGE. FURTHERMORE, UNHCR/UNICEF ARE WORKING WITH RED CROSS IN GENEVA.

(K) POWELL SAID HE NOT NOW AT LIBERTY TO GO INTO DETAILS OF OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYG'S SPECIAL FUND FOR VIET NAM RELIEF BECAUSE MANY GOVTS MUST STILL GET INTERNAL APPROVALS. HE SAID LIST OF 34 (SEE REFTTEL, ADD IRELAND) POTENTIAL DONOR STATES WAS COMPILED ON BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO PAST UNHCR/UNICEF RELIEF PROGRAMS.

(L) POWELL SAID WORLD FOOD PROGRAM NOT BEING DRAWN ON FOR VIET NAM RELIEF BECAUSE WHAT IT HANDLES NOT YET NEEDED THERE, NOR HAS IT BEEN REQUESTED.

(M) POWELL SAID UNICEF AND UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES BEAUMONT AND HAN STILL IN HANOI ASSESSING THE RELIEF EFFORT AND WILL PROBABLY TAKE A TRIP TO PRG ZONES SOON.
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